

**Maine Farmer.**

EZEKIEL HOLMES, GEO. E. BRACKETT, Editors.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man

Winter Feeding of Stock.

By this, we mean not only supplying farm stock with food, but also such general and special care as they require to keep them comfortable and easy during the inclement season. Perhaps it would have been better to have headed our article, "The Winter Care of Stock." Every resident of Maine knows that our summers are pleasant,—neither too hot nor too cool, but of a temperature that not only is congenial to the luxuriant growth of grass and other forage plants, but also equally grateful to cattle, enabling them to feed and fatten on the products of the pastures, without suffering from excessive heat. Our winters, on the other hand, are cold, and sometimes rather severe. The ground, for a time, is covered with snow, and the rigors of the weather such that all stock is completely dependent upon the care of their owners for their daily sustenance and shelter. Hence, what is so easily gained in flesh and fat in the summer, is too often lost in winter. This is well known, as a general truth, but those who have attentively read the experiments and observations of Hon. S. F. Perley, member of the Board of Agriculture from Cumberland, and communicated by him to the Board last winter, will remember the demonstration which he gave of the amount of loss sustained, even by what is called good winter treatment. Facts like these should lead us all to pay attention to the winter management of stock, and to study to so feed and care for them, in such way and manner, as to reduce this loss (for we suppose there must inevitably be some) to the smallest possible amount.

To effect this, two things are absolutely and imperiously necessary. First, a plenty of nourishing food and drink, and second, warm and dry shelter, and strict attention to their comfort and cleanliness. There are two uses of good food during the winter. One use is the supplying of nutritive matter to the stomach, by which the natural waste of the organs of the body are supplied, and by which also, such material as the growth of the system requires. Another use, more particularly required in winter, is the furnishing animal warmth to the system. It may be said, that if you give an animal a sufficiency of nourishing food you thereby supply a cause of animal heat, as that arises from the digestion and assimilation of the food given. This is true, but you will see that two very important requisites depend upon you, nevertheless. First you must supply the food, for the animal cannot help himself, as he does in the summer, and second, this food must necessarily be more condensed than that of summer food, and contain the proper quantity of carboaceous matter, so that this heat can be eliminated from such supplies. In summer, the climate being warm, the food which they obtain from the pastures is not condensed, but full of watery particles, affording the nourishment required in greater parcels, and in a cooler state. The diet gives you a good demonstration of this fact. In summer he will live and thrive on slopes of almost any kind, with grass and such other eatables as he can find in a pasture. He gets along very comfortably. But in winter you put him up and give him the same food, and he will shiver with cold and bury himself in straw to keep warm. Change his food to a more concentrated kind, such as corn, or corn meal, or peas, or barley without stink, and he now, instead of burrowing in the straw he will seek out the cool chances. He will "lay on fat" as you say, and the animal heat which accompanies this assimilation of the food, is so great that he prefers a little "nor-west" to the warmest chances.

Hence, in addition to plenty of food, you need to supply warm and dry shelter, if you would have the full benefit. The warmer the stable the less food will stock eat, and the colder the stable the more and better the food they ought to eat and will eat if they can get it. Another thing—they should have sufficient drink. We have no doubt it would pay many cases, if fixtures were so placed as to warm the water a little in the coldest days. Cattle and horses, that have to go some little distance to drink to the water, drink comparatively a small quantity, and then come back shivering and shaking as if they had the ague. At such times, if they can have access to water that has "been taken off" by a little warming, they will drink a full supply without exhibiting the cooling operation before name.

A writer in the Genesee Farmer last winter, quoting from an English journal, recommended not only the warming water for cattle, or at any rate keeping it at a comfortable temperature, but, in addition to this, the making it nutritious by keeping meal in the trough so that the soluble portions may be dissolved and drunk whenever they pleased.

We have no doubt this would be an excellent thing for stock, though, in our cold climate, it would involve considerable cost at first, to establish fixtures that would at all times keep the water at such temperature as would give all the requirements through the winter. We should like to see a careful series of experiments tried, in order to test the true value of this plan. We do not suppose that all farmers can adopt all the good improvements that are suggested, or that their own judgment and experience may suggest. The most of us are not able always to do what we know would be best,—but we can still strive to do it, and thereby we shall come nearer to what should be done than we otherwise should. Aiming right if you do not fairly hit the mark is better than shooting at random and hitting nothing.

**Bio Poxnas.** We have already several accounts of "big doing" in the pork raising line, but withhold their publication until we receive enough for an article on the subject. So send along the pig stories, only be sure they are not simply "stories," and we will "print 'em."

**Army Horses.** At a late sale of condemned army horses in New York the prices ranged from fifty cents to fifty dollars. A lot of mules were sold at the same time, at prices ranging from twenty-nine to fifty dollars.

## Seasonable Suggestions.

The year is drawing to its close. Spring, summer and autumn, have come and gone, each during their allotted season, and now "pale concluding winter comes to shut the scene." The finger of time has almost reached the twelve mark upon the monthly dial-plate, and a few more days will ring out the old and usher in a new year. The winter King has already made bold approaches, and his strong and steady advance shows that it is more than a simple reconnaissance under that skillful engineer Jack Frost, that it is the beginning of a vigorous campaign, to meet which behoves us to be prepared. Take time by the forelock, anticipate your wants, and you will not be caught napping.

**ACCOUNTS.** This is peculiarly the season for examining and comparing accounts; for settling bills, ascertaining the hows, whys and whereabouts of all farm operations during the season, to find out where and how you stand. Decide upon some easy, the more simple the better, method of account keeping, and enter upon it with the first day of January, 1864. Too many of you keep all the accounts of the farm, that are preserved, on a dead wall or a back door; and too many more keep them in a loose, disconnected manner, without system or certainty. Turn over a new leaf and try a better system, and at the end of next year you will be in a condition to decide whether you are making "pays."

**BUILDINGS.** Are your buildings all put in order for cold weather? If not, don't delay another day, but fix up immediately. How is a farmer judged? Is it not by the looks of his buildings, principally? Show us a farmer who keeps his buildings tidy, and we will show you one who is careful, prudent and painstaking in all his farm operations. Besides, so far as the barn is concerned, it pays to have a warm barn and to keep your stock comfortable. Animals require a certain amount of heat, and if their lodgings are cold more food will be required to supply the demand, and keep up the warmth of the body.

**BEEES.** If bees are housed they will not require so much honey to support them as if they remain out of doors. The temperature should at all times be kept just above freezing. If box hives are used and they are housed, the hive should be well ventilated, to let out the moisture generated by the colony. If passages are made wide enough to admit mice they should be covered with wire coarse enough to allow the bees to pass out and in. If they require to be fed, the hive may be turned bottom side up and the food placed on the combs.

**BARNYARDS.** Of course you had got your barnyard in order before the ground closed; posts firmly set, walls repaired, gates hung, boards all tightly nailed, and above all supplied with a pump and a plenty of water. One of the old time practices which should have long since entirely disappeared is that of driving cattle away to a brook, or water at a distance from the barn. It is a waste of time and patience, and a large portion of the droppings of the animals is lost. Have a pump and pure water in the yard or connected outlets, so that the pastures are not condensed, but full of watery particles, affording the nourishment required in greater parcels, and in a cooler state.

**SHORT ITEMS.** Start a Farmers' Club in your neighborhood, and make it a success.—Collect down wood for fuel, while the ground and swamps are frozen and the surface is free from snow, so that it will be ready to haul to the door at the first "run" of sledding.—Keep cattle off from grass fields during the soft, wet spells of weather.—Manure may be kept from fire-fanging by packing it closely, by allowing animals to tread upon it, by turning the pigs upon it, or by working it over and mixing the cold and warm kinds together.—This is a good time to get a supply of muck from the swamps; the winter's weather exerts a good influence upon it, the alternate freezing and thawing renders it fine and fit for manure.

If you want a supply of eggs through the winter, the fowls must be supplied with animal food and lime, and be kept in warm, light rooms.—Protect your sheep from the rains, but they will withstand the cold without much detriment.

Cut scons for spring use; root grafting may be performed in the house during leisure days, and the grafted stocks kept in sand until spring.—Tramp down the snow around your young fruit trees to prevent the ravages of the mice.—Wait till spring before pruning.—Prepare your children, the boys especially, for the winter schools; so that they have warm clothing, suitable books, and above all, be sure that they are punctual in their attendance.

## Stock Wanted.

We give place to the following inquiries for animals, and request those interested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. We must, however, observe that matches for such animals are not to be found in every farm-yard.

**MESS. EDITORS:**—We would like to inquire through the Farmer as to where a good steer may be found, or tell whoever may be in want of one that he is two years old the 24th day of last April, which is six feet eight inches and weighs 1,450 pounds. He is a grade Durius, deep red color, and for symmetry of form, cannot be excelled. Any information as to where a mate can be obtained, will be gratefully received by L. W. & H. J. Jose.

**Dexter, Dec. 7, 1863.**

**MESS. EDITORS:**—I have a colt, a weight 1,100 pounds, which I wish a mate. Can any of your readers inform me of one?

S. P. PENNEY.  
Canaan, Dec. 1863.

## Important to Farmers.

In a case lately tried before the U. S. Commissioners, according to the Michigan Farmer, it was decided that farmers require no license to enable them to the privilege of selling the products of their own farms. They can either retail it to citizens, or wholesale it to dealers without any liability under the revenue law. Many farmers have supposed they could not peddle or retail their produce without a license, hence they have been at the mercy of the middle men who control the markets, and obtain a livelihood at the expense of both producer and consumer.

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## Ticks on Sheep.

A correspondent, E. H. J., of Industry, inquires for the best method of destroying sheep ticks. He says that out of ninety sheep kept last winter he lost eighteen by this pest.

There are several methods of operation recommended for this purpose, and it would be difficult to say which is really to be preferred. Any method which will rid the sheep of the ticks without injury to the animal will of course answer the purpose. One thing is always necessary, and that is good keeping, which of itself will operate favorably towards preventing the insects from obtaining a lodgment. Various mixtures of oil, turpentine, lard, mercury, &c., are used. Tobacco, both as a liquid, as snuff, and in the smoke form is used with success. Blowing the smoke of burning tobacco among the wool is efficacious. Our senior has invented a "fumigator" for this purpose, but in his absence we are unable to describe it. One of our intelligent sheep husbandmen informs us that he has found powdered sulphur to answer every purpose. He gave the sulphur in their stool, stopping it when the loose effect was apparent, and renewing again if necessary. In a few weeks the sheep were free from ticks.

The Practical Shepherd gives the following in regard to the different remedies:

"A very ticky flock of lambs cannot be kept in good order, and when they become poor and weak toward spring, these destructive parasites rapidly reduce their lower and render them extremely vicious. The ticks are found on the head and neck, all sheep in neglected flocks, but in heat and cold, and the rubbing and biting to which they are exposed on new shorn sheep, drive them to the hard road or travel, and much to make one hand and heart weary; still the toil is invigorating to the muscles and mind, and the promise in the future is fruitful and rich."

This discipline of mind—which is almost the sum total of education without which, most of what is called education is nearly useless—amounts to just nothing at all.

These remarks apply not only to farmers, but to every body. They are as true of one class of society as of another. That man can be most useful, to himself or others, in any profession or business, who has most of this discipline of mind. But let us be sure that we have not lost it. We must spend all our time in the study of what is necessary to be learned, and contentedly repress any rising of ambition to leave the farm for the workshop or the store. Of course, there remains, more particularly, to apply to those who have farms cleared, and made, and cannot so fully to those who have been born to the soil, and have no knowledge of every art, profession, and business, and lay these to the ground, and then turn them around without order or system. He has the tools to work with, but they are useless, for he never knows where to find them, whether they are in order, or how to use them. For all practical, useful ends, he might as well be without them.

A man possessed of such knowledge, who may astonish the world with what seems to them marvellous displays of learning, while his mind is a perfect chaos of ambiguity, uncertainty and error. He makes a good story teller, but a worthless reader.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

# AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

# NEWSPAPER.

## Editor's Table.

**PECULIAR: A Tale of the Great Transition.** By Epes Sargent. New York: Carleton, publisher. pp. 500. 12 mo.

This is the somewhat "peculiar" title to a new work of fiction by one of the most accomplished *literateurs* of the country. Aside from the absorbing and vital interest of the story—the scenes and incidents of which are found in the present crisis of our national history—it will excite the sympathy of the people of Maine who are so deeply interested in behalf of her soldiers, that anything coming from them is read with pleasure by all classes of the community. The humble letter of the soldier is sought for as eagerly as the more elaborate and highly polished communications, and appear in the leading journals of our great cities. Entertaining these views, I send you a brief sketch of our movements during the recent operations, and though devoid of any great or exciting interest, I trust it may be acceptable to you and your numerous readers.

At early dawn last Thanksgiving Day we left the camp we now occupy provided with eight days' rations for ourselves and teams. The roads were heavy from recent rains, and we found the marching very difficult and exhausting. Our progress was slow, and about midnight we came to a stand still, about two miles from the Rapidan. Teams and artillery were stuck in the mud ahead of us, and it was daylight before the roads could be cleared so as to enable us to advance. At 10 A. M. Friday, we crossed the river already referred to, at Germanna Ford, and advanced to the Fredericksburg and Orange Pike. Saturday we were moved in advance of Robertson's Tavern, and the south of the road where we parked in rear of the position assigned us in the line. Sunday all was quiet in our immediate front, but to the right and left there was skirmishing throughout the day. Early Monday morning we placed our guns in position, and about 8 A. M., in company with half a dozen batteries belonging to our corps, we opened on the rebel works at a distance of a mile and a half. Our fire was spirited and was well maintained for half an hour, but failing to elicit anything like a general reply from the enemy, we were ordered to cease. At 10 o'clock all was quiet along that part of the line we occupied, but on the right and left skirmishing and desultory commanding was kept up throughout the day.

The night that followed was intensely cold for this latitude and season. Any wounded men left on the field must have certainly died; but I do not think any of our men were thus neglected. The organization of the Ambulance Corps seems perfect. Ambulances are always seen close up with the front, and our wounded are in most instances immediately cared for.

**SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE.** We have the results of the observations of some eighteen months spent in England among the working classes—the common people, which shows a prevalence of degradation, misery, and total lack of all morality which we were not able to fully realize. Although a disagreeable picture as well as a disagreeable truth, for our Trans-Atlantic neighbor, still it may be a valuable lesson to us Americans and show us the value of our domestic institutions, and the necessity of keeping them pure and free from demoralizing influences. New York, Harper & Brothers, pp. 325.

**PROFIT OF SHEEP KEEPING.** The Waterville Mail says Messrs. Doolittle & Hilton, at their excellent farm on Sandy River, keep a flock of four hundred very choice Merino sheep. We saw them last winter, and thought them the best mutton we have seen in the State. We are told that \$1,000 worth of wool, and \$600 of sheep and lambs have been sold the past season—\$2,200 in all—while the flock has been kept good in number and quality. This is farming that pays.

**DOMESTIC ANIMALS.** by R. L. Allen. This volume contains a history and description of the Horse, Mule, Cattle, Sheep, Swine and Poultry, with directions for their management, breeding, rearing, feeding, &c., also their diseases and their remedies—the whole forming a very convenient manual for farm use. New York: O. M. Saxton, pages 230, price 75 cents.

**PETERSON'S PUBLICATIONS.** T. B. Peterson & Brothers of Philadelphia, are continually issuing new books, and scarcely a week passes that one or more new works do not emanate from this house. That these books are popular with the reading public is shown by the fact of the ready sale they meet with. This house publishes the best list of novels in the country. Such writers as Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Southworth, Charles Dickens and a host of others on their list, are the ones that commands thousands of readers. This firm send books by mail on the receipt of the price, which enables soldiers, or any one else at a distance, to get all books at retail prices. Army sutlers or canvassers can always get a good stock of books from this house at a very small outlay, and can double their money on them in a very short time. Address T. B. Peterson & Brothers, 306 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

**THE LADIES' FRIEND.** The initiatory number of this new monthly has come to hand, and makes a handsome appearance, comparing favorably with other magazines of a similar character. It contains a good variety of entertaining reading, and the department of the fashions, so interesting to the ladies, receives special attention. We have no doubt that the good impression created by its first appearance, will increase in every succeeding number, until it takes rank in the public favor with the most popular periodicals of its class.

**JOHN PARKER.** Captain C. S. Privateer Retribution. Dec. 24, 1863.

A later despatch from Halifax, received by Col. Lester Washburn, states that the Chesapeake was to sail for New York for the purpose:

"To Lt. John CHUBB BRAINE.—You are hereby ordered to proceed to the city of New York, and the State of New York, with the following:

"1st Lieut. H. A. Parr, 2d Lieut. David Collins, Sailing Master Geo. Robinson and crew of eleven men."

You will arrive there, engage passage on board the steamer and your own discretion as to the time and place to capture."

Your action towards the crew and passengers will be strictly in accordance with the President's orders. JOHN PARKER.

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"To Lt. John CHUBB BRAINE.—You are hereby ordered to proceed to the city of New York, and the State of New York, with the following:

"1st Lieut. H. A. Parr, 2d Lieut. David Collins, Sailing Master Geo. Robinson and crew of eleven men."

You will arrive there, engage passage on board the steamer and your own discretion as to the time and place to capture."

Your action towards the crew and passengers will be strictly in accordance with the President's orders. JOHN PARKER.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL

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# AND - FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## Latest Telegraphic News.

**FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.**  
THE ARMY PREPARING WINTER QUARTERS.  
Rebel Soldiers will take Advantage of the Amnesty Proclamation.  
BLOCKADE RUNNERS CAPTURED.  
REPORTED FEDERAL DEFEAT IN TENNESSEE.

## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14th. — The Times Washington despatch says: According to the latest official despatch from the front, through the wire of Gen. Grant, by repairing the railroad from Bridgeport and increasing the steamboat facilities being pushed forward with great energy; the railroad, however, to Chattanooga is not expected to be in running order for weeks.

The troops are receiving the much needed outfit of blankets and clothing for the winter.

**News from Rebel Headquarters**—**Report of the Battle of Charleston**—**Rebel Loss at Knoxville.**

FORREST MONROE, Dec. 10. — The Richmond *Whig* of the 9th inst. contains the following official despatch from the front: "A skirmish took place between the rebels and our army at Fort Morris and battery Gregg opened this morning. The Yankees have ceased firing on Sumter. They are altering their batteries and intrenching Gregg's eastern end. Our monitor has been working around her sides to protect her from torpedoes. Our batteries keep up a slow fire on the fortifications working parties, which have kept up between the two batteries and ours."

BOSTON, Dec. 8. — Gen. Longstreet has raised the siege of Knoxville, in consequence of heavy reinforcements received by Burnside. On Friday night our force fell back to Morristown, where a stand will probably be made. The work of putting the East Tennessee and Virginia railroad in repair will be continued.

WASHINGTON, 11th. — The Navy Department has received news of the capture of the English blockade-runner schooner Maria, from Havana, of Bay Port, Florida.

The prize steamer Miami has been ordered from Hampton Roads to New York.

The blockade-runner schooner Albert or Winona, was captured off Mobile, on the 29th of November. She had a valuable cargo, and \$5,500 in specie was found on board.

FORREST MONROE, 14th. — Gen. McDowell arrived here this afternoon and had a lengthy interview with Gen. Butler.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 12th has the following:

BOSTON, Dec. 9. — Gen. Gilmer's brigade encountered the advance of Wilcox's corps, 2000 strong, near Maynardville, Tenn., and routed them, capturing a large number of prisoners.

White's division was composed of raw troops.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14. — In Senate, Mr. Wilson of Massachusetts introduced the following:

Resolved, That the gratitude of the American people, and of their Representatives in Congress, are hereby tendered to Major General Joseph Hooker, and the officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac, for the skill, energy and determination with which they have fought their way from the mediocrities of the South to the rank of the army of their friends.

Gen. Hooker's reputation since the battle of the Rappahannock stands higher than ever.

He is considered by some folks as the next commander of the Army of the Potomac.

The present corps commanders, with one exception will be removed.

**Foreign News.**

**TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.**

The steamer Enna from Liverpool Nov. 25th, and Queenstown, 29th, arrived at New York Dec. 10th.

**England.**

Mr. Cobden had made a speech at Rochdale.—

He reiterated his belief that the South could not achieve its independence, and charged those with ignorance who said it could, that it did not believe there would be two nations of Americans.

He proposed the idea that the South wished to establish free trade, and said he always found more sympathy on that head in the North.

The South had no other motive than the interest of slavery.

Mr. Cobden also spoke in opposition to the Congress, and denounced England's policy toward Japan.

Gen. Beaumont spoke on local topics only.

The Daily *New* confirms the statement that England will shortly send a clear statement to France, showing why it cannot agree to the Congress.

The Times says the British Cabinet gave the most serious attention to the proposed Congress, but with the greatest respect for the Emperor, and on courteously declining. The Times believes that other Governments will follow the example.

Deserters say that Lee's army does not exceed 35,000, and it is erecting huts for winter quarters along the line of the Rappahannock.

The resolution was read twice, and referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Wilson also introduced a joint resolution that the Congress be tendered to Maj. Gen. W. P. Banks and others to consider his suggestion for the creation of a single and uniform code of laws for the slaves and their descendants.

Mr. Adams introduced a bill to amend the enrollment act so as to strike out the \$2000 contribution, and to increase the pay of rank and file of the army.

In House, a large number of bills on various subjects were introduced and referred.

Fernando Wood offered a resolution providing the appointment of a commissioner to Richmond with the view of arranging for the transfer of the military, especially the garrison, and securing a peace under the Constitution on terms of justice and equality.

Mr. Washburn of Illinois introduced a bill Carrying a joint resolution introduced by the Senate.

Mr. Adams introduced a joint resolution authorizing the government of Great Britain to the notice required for the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty of June 5, 1852. Referred to committee on Foreign Affairs.

A joint resolution was introduced for the appointment of a commission to Richmond with the view of arranging for the transfer of the military, especially the garrison, and securing a peace under the Constitution on terms of justice and equality.

Mr. Lovett introduced a bill providing that all persons held to slavery in the States and Territories, shall be declared free.

Mr. Arnold introduced a bill to repeal so much of the enrollment act as authorizes the discharge of persons drafted on the payment of \$300. Referred to military Committee.

Mr. Daws of Mass., introduced a bill providing for the election of representatives from the States of Tennessee and Louisiana. Referred to committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Yeaman introduced a bill for the restoration of civil authority in such States as are not under the control of the rebellion. Referred to judiciary committee.

Mr. Lovett introduced a bill providing that all persons held to slavery in the States and Territories, shall be declared free.

Mr. Arnold introduced a bill to amend the Constitution declaring slavery incompatible with free government.

Messrs. Harling, French, and Holman introduced resolutions declaring that this is not a war for subjugation, and when the rebels lay down their arms the war ceases. Laid over.

Mr. Lovett introduced a resolution to inquire into the expediency of placing all enlisted soldiers on the same footing, without distinction as to color. Passed.

**The Record of the War.**

**The Raising of the Siege of Knoxville—Part II of the Retiring Enemy.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. — The Tribune's Knoxville despatch of the 7th inst. contains the following: "The siege of Knoxville is raised, and Longstreet with his army is in full retreat toward Virginia. It virtually terminated yesterday, when at an early hour the advance guard of our reinforcements under Gen. Sherman arrived here. The enemy during the past few days kept up an active show of intention to remain in sight of our troops, and when the rebels lay down their arms to cease. Laid over."

Mr. Lovett introduced a resolution to inquire into the expediency of placing all enlisted soldiers on the same footing, without distinction as to color. Passed.

**Reports from Southern Papers.**

NEW YORK, 11th. — The *Rebel* accounts report that Blaine of Georgia has ordered a conscription of every able-bodied citizen over 15 years of age.

Blaine's return into the Suwanee river on Dec. 1st, was closed by the destruction of the steamer Enna, by the Federal gunboat Union.

A Charleston despatch of the 5th reports that Lee had, under a flag of truce, forwarded a request to Gen. Meagher for an armistice of three months' duration.

WASHINGTON, 11th. — Gen. Meade before yesterday forwarded his report of the recent movement of the Rappahannock, and the War Department is in communication with the Cabinet. His late retrospective movements are fully endorsed by almost every officer of the army.

All the corps are busy engaged making themselves comfortable. Beyond this no active operations are visible.

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## Poetry.

### IN AN ATTIC.

This is my attic-room. Sit down, my friend! I'm always here, and hard to gain; The stairs are long and steep, but at the end The room is bright and pale.

For here are peace and freedom; room for speech Or silence, as may suit a thoughtful mood—Society's hard by-laws do not reach me.

You happiness dwells in the lower rooms— See only bricks and window-glimpses; But here, above the dust and smoky glooms, The sun's lighted windows look out wide.

So early in the streaks of morning light Your bright wings while yet my eyes behold The purpling hills, the wide horizon's sweep, And the sun's first rays upon the golden field.

The day comes earlier here. At morn I see Along the streets the silent gulfins pass; I live in daylight, brightness and repose.

White lilies are lost in sleep.

I cast off the shawl of thoughtless ease, And the heavy burden of life's load falls.

Far from the past, in this thyself thyself crowds I dream with little need of words;

I have mute friendships with the stars and clouds.

The bright beams of the sun are all thine.

All who walk sleep way, in rest and night, Where every step is full of toil and pain,

May see when they have sought the slighest shade.

And though their eyes drop tears, their sight is clear;

The air is pure, and the breeze is sweet,

And the blue heaven more near.

FLORENCE PERCY.

### Our Story-Teller.

### OUR DICK.

#### AN ENGLISH STORY.

The estate or the business to fortunate Mr. Charles, the eldest son—the array or navy for his brother Tom—the family living or a purchased dowry, to be occupied by a warning-man if it fails in before he is of age to be ordained, for John—but what provision shall be made for Dick?

This question clamors for answer, some or later, in all "respectable" families with wealth of sons. Dick, youngest and scapegrace, is naturally prone to devilry, and Tom, the matter of course, has the mind of a rather question.

"Well, I don't know, I'm sure," he replies at last, rubbing his nose nervously. "We must give him a good education, and make him a fair allowance, and let him see what can do for himself. If there's any thing in the lad, it will be sure to come out. He must be the architect of his own fortune, I suppose."

Fortunate is the master for the darling, mannered insects with a sigh, and the subject slimmers.

After Dick has scraped through his degree, a family council is held, at which the momentous question is again brought forward—What is to be done with Dick? It is settled, of course, that Tom will one day be commander-in-chief of that branch of the army of the future. John is the Archibishop of Canterbury, the future. For poor Dick there is nothing left but to govern the nation as prime minister, or baffle the lords with the wiles. Thus his fond mother. He asks and obtains a given time for reflection. Eyebrow and youth roll up behind him like a scroll it comes out of his father's study; before him spreads large, fair, as uncurled, the open path of life.

But the world is not Dick's, with the final blessing is drawn, bound with respect; or shall they bring shame hot to the brow of kindred for his lazy, useless life?

Much depends upon Dick himself. I am not supposing him either a genius or a fool. Take my specimen younger son as the average type of this class—a decent young Englishman, with a good education, and a mind with no particular shyness, abilities, of fair intellect, high animal spirits, good common sense; desirous of making his way in the world. Such a man feels the importance of the decision he is called upon to make.

My ideal Dick, therefore, who, if he knows anything, knows well enough that of the world in which he is to live, to plan his life, and to do just nothing—considers friend. Luck for him, he possesses one upon whose judgment and experience he can implicitly rely. Phil Lumley, engaged to Dick's sister Constance, has been reading for the last six years. The apoplexy which carried off his father, and the accidental decease of his elder brother (drowned bathing in the Bay) have put his brotherhood in the hands of the best of friends. The young man is a lad with a melancholy smile, and shock his head, "Ah, Dick, it's easy to see your lines have been cast in pleasant places. My poor fellow you've got a terrible deal to learn."

"May be," said Dick boldly. "Never mind that. You're green once yourself. I'll teach you."

"Very true, Dick, but I gained my experience in a harder school than you'll be called upon to enter. However, to continue. Without capital, you'll find yourself at once upon the same level with thousands of others. You can't be an employer; you must be one of the employed. You must take your talents, your acquirements into a market where hundreds of thousands often sell for a song. Now, Dick, what have you to tell me?"

"Education, honesty, intelligence," answered Dick.

Again Phil Lumley shook his head. "Not much. Others can offer the same, and the market is glutted. I don't for a moment doubt that your goods are of the finest quality. But I think you are indispensables—put yourself under my wing."

"I think you are. Still, I think for myself, if I required the services of a young fellow in any capacity where education, honesty and intelligence were wanted, I should expect to purchase something more as well. You have overlooked your most valuable possession, Dick, in your hurry. Think again."

Dick straightens his brows, runs over in imagination the list of his past sins—he was a young rascal, he had not a long one—but he could think of nothing.

"I am strong and healthy," he muttered, half ashamed to mention such commonplace qualities.

"By means your worst recommendations in other words, a young fellow possessed in greater degree. Think again."

"Well, I think it's a year or two since I last had written home the glad tidings that his wife had given him an heir. Some notion of the course which, by Phil's advice, had pursued to conquer fortune, may be gleamed from the following extract:

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